

## Permanency

### Objective: Decrease length of stay without increasing re-entry

Measured by: Length of stay for children in care

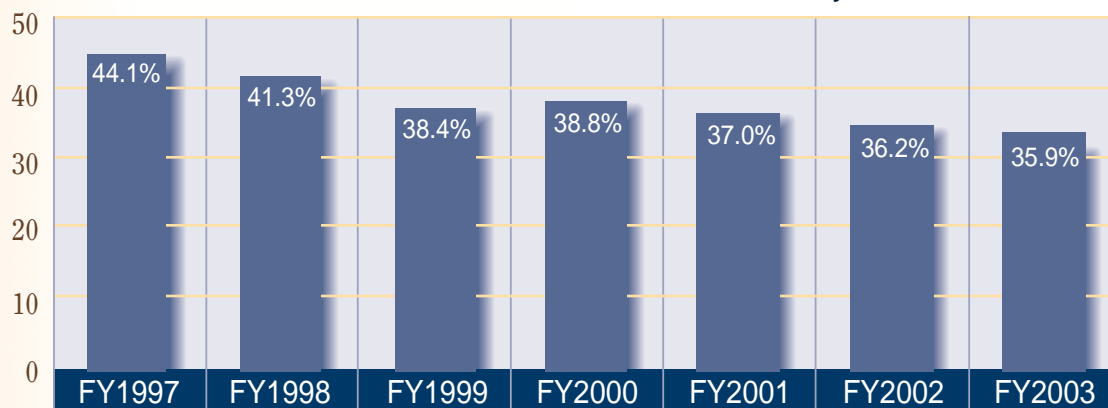
Every child benefits from having a safe, stable and permanent home and the Children's Administration strives to make this a reality for children in care as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

In Fiscal Year 1997, the median number of days children spent in out-of-home care was 644, in FY2003 the number of days was 530.

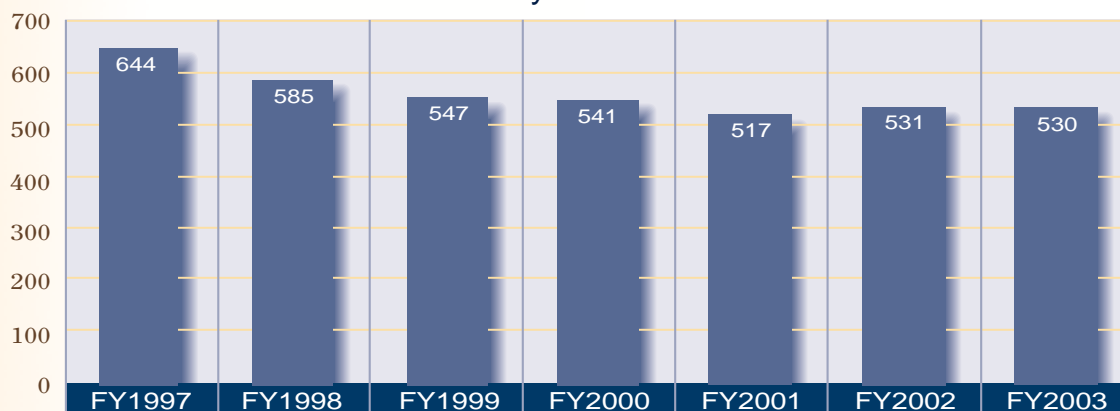
The percent of children who were in out-of-home care for more than two years was 44.1 percent in fiscal year 1997, compared to 35.9 percent in fiscal year 2003. This means that fewer children are in out-of-home care for extended periods of time and are actually spending fewer total days in care since tracking of this measure began.

Less time spent in out-of-home care translates to increased likelihood of a child returning home or being adopted.

**Percent of Children in Care More Than 60 Days  
Who Have Been in Care More Than 2 years\***



**Median Number of Days Children are Placed in Care\*\***



News Advisory,  
March 2004

Performance  
Report, 2003

\*Percent of all those children in DCFS custody currently in care for more than 60 days, who have a cumulative time in care during their current placement episode of greater than two years.

\*\* Median cumulative time in care for all children in care for more than 60 days.